

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 IO-06 ARA-10 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 L-01
DODE-00 PM-03 EB-04 /058 W
-----084017 201802Z /50

O 201740Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4395
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 01240

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CU, BE
SUBJECT: ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM TALKS TO
EMBASSY OFFICER AND LATER WITH U.S. PROFESSOR.

REF: A) BRUSSELS 1201, B) 77 BRUSSELS 16758 (NOTAL),
C) 77 BRUSSELS 13378 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY OFFICER ENCOUNTERS NEW ANGOLAN
AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND EC AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION.
AMBASSADOR ALMEIDA - CLEARLY IN BRUSSELS AS ANGOLA'S
"SALESMAN" IN EUROPE - IS COURTEOUS AND PERSONALLY AT
EASE IN CONVERSATION WITH EMOFF. ALMEIDA DEFENDS ANGOLAN
POLICIES, INCLUDING NEED FOR CUBAN TROOPS, IN SEPARATE
MEETING WITH VISITING AMERICAN PROFESSOR. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAD TWENTY-MINUTE CONVER-
SATION JANUARY 16 AT CUBAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION WITH
NEW ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND E.C. LUIS JOSE
DE ALMEIDA, WHO HAD PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO KING
BAUDOUIN DECEMBER 16. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA
APPEARED OPEN AND CORDIAL AND MOVED INTO MORE
SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECTS TOWARDS THE END OF THE CONVERSATION,

EMBOFF GENERALLY AVOIDED DIRECT SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENTS. DE ALMEIDA SAID ANGOLA'S POLICY IS ONE OF "NON-ALIGNMENT," AND THAT HIS COUNTRY WANTED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH "SOME" COUNTRIES AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL. AS FOR THE U.S., HE SAID THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN GOING ON AT THE U.N. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS, INCLUDING ANDREW YOUNG, AND WAS IN CONGRESSMAN YOUNG'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON ON THE DAY THE "IMPERIALISTS" INVADED ANGOLA.

3. AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA, GOOD-LOOKING, WELL-DRESSED, WELL-MANNERED, SEEMS WELL SUITED FOR THE ROLE OF ANGOLA'S SALESMAN IN EUROPE, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY IS HIS TASK AS ANGOLA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE EC-AND POSSIBLY TO OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (77 BONN 19250). HE IS ABOUT FIVE FEET SEVEN INCHES TALL AND CLEARLY OF MIXED RACE. HE SPOKE TO US IN CLEAR PORTUGUESE BUT SHOWED EXCELLENT COMMAND OF FRENCH IN GENERAL CONVERSATION AND DURING HIS TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE. HIS WIFE IS AN ATTRACTIVE GERMAN WOMAN WHO WAS SOCIABLE AND POISED IN CONVERSATION. EMBOFF ALSO MET AND TALKED WITH TWO OTHER ANGOLAN EMBASSY OFFICERS AT THE CUBAN RECEPTION, BUT DID NOT ASCERTAIN THEIR NAMES. ONE, WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN IN BRUSSELS SINCE SEPTEMBER, CONFIDENTIAL

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MUST BE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER A. RAMOS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL C.

4. COMMENT. AS FURTHER SUCH UNPLANNED ENCOUNTERS CAN BE EXPECTED ON DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT HERE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ADVISE US AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED.

5. ON JANUARY 17, DR. MICHAEL SAMUELS, FORMERLY AMBASSADOR IN SIERRA LEONE AND CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF THIRD WORLD STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, WAS IN BRUSSELS ON HIS WAY TO KINSHASA, LAGOS AND CAIRO (STATE 6369 NOTAL) AND MET WITH AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA FOR ABOUT FORTY MINUTES AT THE INSTIGATION OF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET (AND FORMER DCM IN WASHINGTON), ALFRED CAHEN. SAMUELS INFORMED US SUBSEQUENTLY THAT DE ALMEIDA TOLD HIM THAT ANGOLA WOULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IF THE U.S. ACCEPTED ANGOLA "AS IT IS" AND DID NOT INSIST ON THE "UNACCEPTABLE" CONDITION THAT CUBANS WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA, A CONDITION DE ALMEIDA SAID WAS ANALOGOUS TO ANGOLA'S INSISTING ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS

FROM NATO COUNTRIES. ANGOLA DID NOT NEED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ALREADY HAS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, E.G. GULF, TEXACO. ASKED BY SAMUELS IF ANGOLA WOULD SEEK ADHESION TO THE LOME CONVENTION, DE ALMEIDA REPLIED NEGATIVELY SAYING THAT HE WAS IN EUROPE TO "WATCH" AND THAT ANGOLA IS IN "NO HURRY," SEEKING WORLDWIDE RELATIONS ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS RATHER THAN ADHERING TO ANY BLOCS. HE ADDED THAT ANGOLA DID NOT NEED LOME BECAUSE ITS PRINCIPAL EXPORTS - OIL, DIAMONDS, COFFEE - WERE NOT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 01240

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OF THE SORT THAT NEEDED EC HELP. INTERNAL PRODUCTION, NOT EXTERNAL MARKETS, WAS THE KEY TO THE PROBLEM. DE ALMEIDA ADDED THAT AN INHIBITION TO EXPANDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS ANGOLA'S LACK OF QUALIFIED DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.

6. DE ALMEIDA TOLD SAMUELS THAT CUBANS ARE IN ANGOLA AS A RESULT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION, WHICH TOOK PLACE WITH "AT LEAST U.S. ENCOURAGEMENT, IF NOT MORE." THE PRESENT ROLE OF THE CUBANS IN ANGOLA IS TO HELP THE ANGOLAN ARMED FORCES BECOME "ONE OF THE STRONGEST IN AFRICA." THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO SPEND SCARCE RESOURCES ON MILITARY BUILD-UP BUT THIS WAS FORCED ON IT BY CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CONTINUAL INTERNAL

UPSET IN ANGOLA WOULD NOT BE TAKING PLACE WITHOUT
THE AID GIVEN TO THE INSURGENTS BY ZAIRE AND SOUTH
AFRICA. HE SAID ANGOLA MUST PREPARE ITSELF TO
RESPOND MILITARILY TO THOSE COUNTRIES "IF NECESSARY,"
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AND CITED 1985 (REPEAT 1985) AS A POSSIBLE READY DATE.

7. DE ALMEIDA ALSO TOLD SAMUELS THAT THE ONLY WAY
BLACKS WILL WIN IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE BY "THE USE
OF FORCE" AND THAT FRIENDLY COUNTRIES MUST HELP SOUTH
AFRICAN BLACKS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH THE MEANS TO
USE FORCE OR BY THEMSELVES "INVADING" SOUTH AFRICA.
HE SAID ANGOLA WAS A "MAJOR THREAT" TO SOUTH AFRICA,
NOT BECAUSE IT IS MARXIST OR HAS A HOSTILE FOREIGN
POLICY BUT BECAUSE ANGOLA IS LIVING PROOF THAT
"A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY EXISTS AND IS VIABLE."
HE SAID ANGOLA WAS READY TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH ZAIRE BUT NOT WHILE ZAIRE WAS SUPPORTING ANGOLAN
INSURGENT MOVEMENTS. OLSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE01240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780031-0238
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780142/aaaabizv.tel
Line Count: 194
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 1201, 77 BRUSSELS 16758
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3743404
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM TALKS TO EMBASSY OFFICER AND LATER WITH U.S. PROFESSOR.
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CU, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e28c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014